

American institution that occasionally frustrates liberal activists an evil relic of Jim Crow. Let me say that again. For more than a year, we have seen a coordinated campaign to call any American institution that occasionally frustrates liberal activists an evil relic of Jim Crow.

When these talking points came into circulation last summer, their focus was the legislative filibuster here in the Senate, except it was Senate Democrats who had just used the legislative filibuster to kill Senator TIM SCOTT's police reform, body camera, and anti-lynching legislation.

Two days ago, our colleague the assistant Democratic leader suggested he now opposes the filibuster because it was used back in the 1920s to block an anti-lynching bill. To be clear, our colleague from Illinois was a loud and proud defender of the current Senate rules as recently as 2018. This isn't about the 1920s. It is not about the 1920s. It is about Democrats wanting different sets of rules, depending on whether or not they happen to be in the majority.

Our colleague didn't need to go back nine decades to find instances of Democrats' filibustering a Republican anti-lynching bill. He only needed to go back 9 months. He didn't have to go back to the 1920s but just go back 9 months to find an example of Democrats filibustering an anti-lynching bill.

Last summer, 44 Senate Democrats locked arms and filibustered TIM SCOTT's police reform, body camera, and anti-lynching legislation because it was not far left enough or anti-police enough. That is the irony here. If any recent Senate filibusters have been reminiscent of the 1920s, it was when Democrats killed a Republican anti-lynching bill just last summer.

Here is the truth. Our colleagues can't defend any of the details of their radical policies. So they want to change the subject—change the subject—by any means necessary.

Look at voting regulations. The recent bill passed in the State of Georgia mandates more days of early voting than plenty of Democratic-run States allow. It continues no-excuse absentee voting, which some blue States do not allow. There is no factual standard by which its overall approach is radically more restrictive than the rules in place in many other States, blue or red.

The Washington Post has given the White House its worst rating, four—four Pinocchios—for repeated lies about Georgia and the election law. But the President and his staff just keep on doubling down.

One of our colleagues who represents Georgia put his name to a public statement—to a public statement—with inaccurate information about the bill.

In the Rules Committee, the Democratic leader shouted angry attacks at things the Georgia law simply doesn't do.

Why the fake narratives? Why the falsehoods? We all know why. For more

than 2 years, Washington Democrats have been desperate to pass a sweeping partisan takeover of our democracy. It is packed—packed—with shameful provisions that have nothing to do with ballot access.

They want to take the bipartisan Federal Election Commission, make it a partisan body, and give Democrats the majority. They want to send taxpayers' money to political campaigns. They want to expand Washington's policing of Americans' speech. They want to neuter voter ID and mandate ballot harvesting in all 50 States. Strangely enough, for multiple years now, this exact same power grab has been their answer to every changing circumstance. When they didn't like the outcome of the 2016 election, Democrats said our democracy was broken and only this takeover could fix it. Then, in 2020, they got the result they liked. Suddenly, this same bill became the way to simply preserve a system that functioned well.

There seems to be no situation where this attempted power grab is not the Democrats' answer. I think we can learn tomorrow that an asteroid was hurtling toward Earth, and Democrats would say our only hope was to pass H.R. 1.

This isn't about responding to recent State laws. It is not about justice or equity. Washington Democrats want to rewrite all 50 States' election laws. They want to take over the Federal Election Commission. And they have been trying out different justifications for multiple years straight to get what they want.

Any Federal law addressing the ground rules of our democracy has a special obligation to be sober, to be factual, and to be bipartisan. The Senate has done just that in the past. We have passed reasonable laws by huge, bipartisan margins making it easier to vote but harder to cheat.

So ask yourself: Why won't Democrats today deal in truth and facts? Why do they keep using the same smears to distract from their policies? Why are they hell-bent on a bill that passed the House with purely partisan support but bipartisan opposition? Talk about tipping your hand.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2021.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, today I am honored to stand on this hallowed Senate floor and share my gratitude for and the priorities of the people of Kansas.

I want to start by thanking the people of Kansas who believed in me and sent me here to represent them. It is an honor of a lifetime to follow in the steps of heroic Kansans who preceded me in this legislative body. That includes sharing this tour of duty with my long-time friend whom I have admired for decades and now my senior Senator, JERRY MORAN, as well as legends of this Chamber, my mentors Bob Dole and Pat Roberts.

But before I continue, I want to say a special word of gratitude to my family for all of their support. I would not be here today without the support of my wife of 37 years now, Laina, our four children and their spouses, our three grandchildren, as well as my parents, brother, sister, and extended family, who in so many ways have contributed to our campaigns and the work we have done in Congress. I am grateful for their understanding, their unwavering support, and sacrifice of privacy and family time, but, mostly, I am grateful for the values they passed on to me.

I am grateful for the many teachers, coaches, pastors, and personal friends who inspired me and gave me a solid foundation of values that have seen us through tough times. These values provided the foundation for me, a fifth-generation farm kid, to become a first-generation college student and live my American dream as a physician in rural America.

And these values have become pillars, the sturdiest of which in my life are faith, family, community, education, and hard work—a faith that you live in your heart, not wear on your shirt sleeves; a family that loves and stands beside you no matter what; a community where everyone looks out for each other; an education that is the great equalizer, leveling the playing field for all; and, finally, a belief in hard work that paves the way to achieve your American dream.

As I traveled Kansas this past year, I carried these pillars with me while I heard from people all over the State, and they gave three very clear priorities: No. 1, provide for their safety, health, and security; No. 2, to bring back our jobs and economy; and, No. 3, to protect our values and our God-given, inalienable rights.

I am here in the Senate to do just that, to fight for the people of Kansas,